

Message Text

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SUBJECT: UNIVERSITY OF THRACE INAUGURATED

1. IN DUAL CEREMONIES IN KOMOTINI AND XANTHI PRESIDED
OVER BY THE GREEK PRESIDENT STASINOPOULOS,
THE DEMOCRITUS UNIVERSITY OF THRACE WAS FORMALLY OPENED MARCH
20. AMONG LARGE GROUP OF OTHER DIGNITARIES ATTENDING CEREMONIES
WERE MINED ZEPPUS, MIN OF CULTURE AND SCIENCE TRYPANIS, MIN
OF NORTHERN GREECE MARTIS, "C" CORPS COMMANDER
KRITIKOS, RECTORS OF OTHER GREEK UNIVERSITIES,
AND MEMBERS OF CONSULAR CORPS IN NORTHERN GREECE.

2. UNIVERSITY BRANCH IN KOMOTINI, HOUSED IN NEW
BUILDING ORIGINALLY PLANNED AS GIRLS SCHOOL,
WILL PROVIDE FOUR-YEAR LAW COURSE, AND IN
PRESENT INITIAL YEAR HAS RECEIVED TWO HUNDRED FRESH-
MEN STUDENTS. XANTHI BRANCH, IN FORMER, ALSO NEW,
MUNICIPAL CULTURAL CENTER, IS POLYTECHNIC SCHOOL WHICH
HAS 100 FRESHMAN STUDENTS IN FIRST YEAR. PLANS
CALL FOR ADDITION OF MEDICAL SCHOOL IN KOMOTINI
AT SOME FUTURE DATE. FACULTY MEMBERS FOR PRESENT
DRAWN PRINCIPALLY FROM STAFF OF THESSALONIKI UNIV ON PART-TIME
BASIS, INCLUDING NEW UNIVERSITY' S PRESIDENT, POLYTECHNIC
PROFESSOR LYSSIMACHOS MAVRIDES.

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PAGE 02 THESSA 00195 211459Z

3. ALTHOUGH PRES STASINOPOULOS' OPENING ADDRESS WAS LARGELY PHILOSOPHICAL IN NATURE, CALLING FOR GREATER COOPERATION BETWEEN TEACHERS AND STUDENTS, OTHER SPEAKERS, INCLUDING MINISTER MARTIS AND UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT MAVRIDES, STRESSED CRITICAL ATMOSPHERE OF TIME AND LOCATION IN THEIR REMARKS. MAVRIDES REFERRED TO PRESENT AS "CRUCIAL PERIOD" IN NATION'S HISTORY, FOLLOWING "SEVEN YEARS OF SERIOUS TRIAL", WHEN GREECE WOULD EITHER ENTER "NEW ERA OF PROGRESS AND GLORY OR SUFFER SERIOUS NATIONAL DISASTERS". THRACIAN UNIVERSITY WAS SITUATED IN AREA OF NATION THAT IS "EXCEPTIONALLY SENSITIVE AND STRATEGIC", HE SAID, AND THEREFORE HAS SPECIAL ROLE TO PLAY IN BRINGING TOGETHER ALL FORCES OF COUNTRY TO AVERT "SERIOUS NATIONAL DANGERS". MARTIS ALSO REFERRED TO NEW SCHOOL AS "SPIRITUAL BULWAR IN THIS BORDER AREA OF COUNTRY" AT TIME WHEN BOTH POLITICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS WERE HAVING IMMEDIATE AND DRAMATIC IMPACT UPON NATION. HE SAID THAT POLYTECHNIC SCHOOL WOULD CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TOWARD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THRACE, WHOSE NATURAL RESOURCES MAKE IT ONE OF GREECE'S RICHEST POTENTIAL AREAS.

4. THRACE UNIVERSITY IS FIFTH IN GREECE AFTER ATHENS, THESSALONIKI, IOANNINA AND PATRAS.
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